

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 3, 2013

AGENDA NO. 11

PROPOSAL: Approve Transfer of Monies from the Health Effects Research Fund to the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation

SYNOPSIS: At the April 2010 Annual Meeting of the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation, the Foundation Board asked that any funds transferred to the Health Effects Research Fund by the SCAQMD Governing Board be reserved for the Foundation's use to support brain and lung tumor and air pollution research, but not transferred until specific projects are identified by the Foundation Board. This action is to transfer \$1,000,000 from the Health Effects Research Fund to the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation to fund such research.

COMMITTEE: Administrative, April 12, 2013; Recommended for Approval

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Authorize the transfer of \$1,000,000 from the Health Effects Research Fund (Fund 48) to the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation.

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.
Executive Officer

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Background

At the June 2008 meeting, the Board established a Health Effects Research Fund and initially funded it with \$1.5 million from the BP Arco Settlement Fund. The Board further authorized, upon annual Board approval, the transfer of 20% of annual penalty money received that exceeds \$4 million in receipts to the Health Effects Research Fund. The current balance for this Fund is \$1,265,524.

Since 2003, the Board has funded the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation and the Asthma and Outdoor Air Quality Consortium from penalty

revenues. These monies have been used to fund a number of research projects at local universities and research institutions.

Findings from the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation funded research indicated that fine particulate exposure is associated with biochemical changes in the brains of laboratory animals that are consistent with the biochemical pattern found in human brain tumors. Another project found preliminary associations of particulate matter levels and the risk of childhood brain tumors. These findings are provocative, but still preliminary, and are being followed up with additional study to better understand the relation of pollution exposure to the risk of contracting brain tumors. One of the hypotheses being tested is whether traffic-related emissions and ultrafine particles may be linked to the changes found in brain tissue and tumor risk.

Through the Asthma and Outdoor Air Quality Consortium, the Board has funded several research projects ranging from laboratory studies to epidemiology studies of air pollution health effects. Results of these projects have provided new information on health effects, including the findings of increased risk for asthma symptoms and lung inflammation in children exposed to traffic-related emissions and new findings of how pollutants can react with cell components to cause injury.

The requested Board action will provide funding to conduct additional health effects research related to brain and lung tumors and air pollution, which will include follow-up on the results described above, and will provide information to better assess the health risks of exposure to air pollutants.

Results from these studies will provide scientific information to inform policy choices for reducing emissions and exposures to pollutants in the South Coast Air Basin and may provide new insights on how to develop therapies to treat brain tumors.

A research proposal regarding particulate exposures and brain tumors has been received through the BP/SCAQMD Public Benefits Program in response to a Request for Proposals for air pollution health effects research. Staff recommends that this proposal be forwarded to the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation for consideration of potential funding.

Proposal

Staff is proposing that the Board authorize the transfer of \$1,000,000 from the Health Effects Research Fund to the Brain & Lung Tumor and Air Pollution Foundation.

Resource Impacts

Funds are available from the Health Effects Research Fund.